

Fan Pier Alternatives

Rethinking Fan Pier Development—Recognizing there is zero demand for office space and the difficulties financing hotels, the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs will buy the Fan Pier and McCourt properties on the South Boston Waterfront—a total of 45 acres—to create the Boston Museum District. Supported by the ICA, Children's Museum and the virtually unused Convention Center, the Museum District's centerpiece will be designed by Frank Gehry, encased in silver sheet, called the Museum of Boston's White Elephants.



An advisory committee has been focusing on possible new cultural themes for the district and is recommending maritime history and contemporary entertainment and food. The City would build a replica of the HMS Victory, the world's oldest commissioned warship, to complement Old Ironsides, the oldest floating warship.

Contemporary entertainment activities would include bungee jumping, Extreme Kite Flying, running of the bulls and LegoLand. Sports history buffs are lobbying to restore the Congress Street Grounds, the small, 1890s ballpark on Northern Avenue, for rich guests to hit fungoes and slide into third base.

MassRides—After 25 years of being run by CARAVAN for Commuters, the state's ridesharing and commuter options contract was awarded to Buses R US Corporation. The new organization, MassRides, has already initiated a new form of carpooling.



Seeking to shake the "negative" image of crowded vanpools full of chronically late unpleasant or boring people you'd actually pay to stay home, MassRides is offering the intimacy and congeniality of the Spanish oxcart, resplendent with

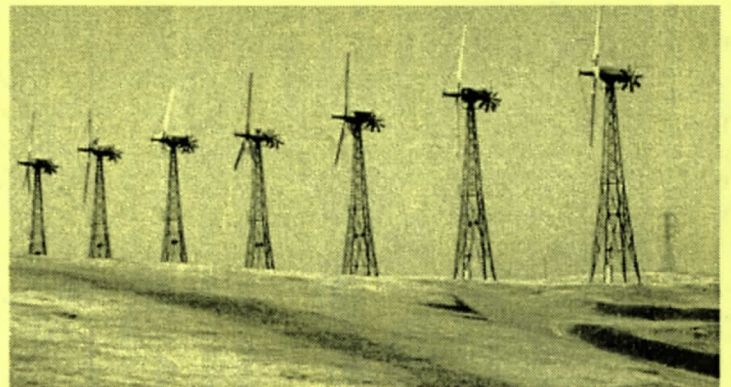
warm and welcoming music and stimulating chatter.

Transform your commute! Contact MassRides and sign up for a seat in the oxcart.

Wind Power for the Wind-Swept Wasteland—

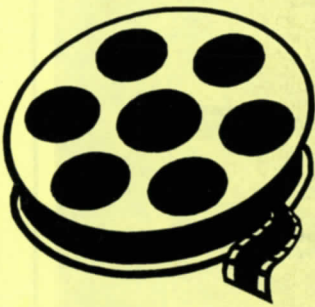
Windmills are coming to City Hall Plaza as Mayor Menino attempts to fill the barren plaza with something that looks like it has some life. A company seeking permission to build a wind farm near Nantucket, Windmills R Us, has been recruited by the Mayor to build a wind farm at City Hall Plaza while arguments in Nantucket continue ad nauseam.

Citing two great sources of wind, wind bags at City Hall and gale-force winds on the plaza, Mayor Menino hopes to generate enough power from the windmills to operate two new electronic billboards that will be leased to Bernie & Phyl's Furniture and Jockey Underwear.



Movies Not to Miss!

House of Sand and Fog—a gripping tale of the intrigue and deception during a normal day at the Mass. State House



The Station Agent—a remake by the MBTA of "The Invisible Man"

The Dreamers—the sad story of landscape architects and urban planners who imagined that their Central Artery Greenway designs would please everyone

Mystic River—a drama about escalating crime in Chelsea and Everett to pay for increased Tobin Bridge Tolls

Perfect Score—a fantasy about the Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics and Bruins all winning championships in the same year

Dawn of the Dead—a documentary about the awakening of the legislature after a late-night session

1 MBTA Silver Line — Determined to get back in the good graces of the Federal Transit Administration that recently called the MBTA Silver Line a dog of a project, the MBTA is getting innovative.

Some innovative approaches the MBTA is pursuing:

- Although the purpose of Silver Line Phase III is to connect the So. Boston and Roxbury Silver Lines via tunnel, the MBTA will eliminate the tunnel to save \$700 million
- Eliminating three stations and not picking up passengers is estimated to save \$100 million
- Rerouting the service from Tremont Street (Theater District) to Charles Street So. to Boylston Street at the request of the Edgar Allan Poe Society to pass by his birthplace on Carver Street near the Milner Hotel will add \$50 million, but the EAP Society has promised to contribute
- Service every 20 minutes instead of every 6 minutes will save \$25 million annually
- Time saved by not serving riders due to above "innovations" will save \$75 million per year

2 It απεαρσ τηατ Gov. Romney's Φιξ Ιτ Φιρστ ισ νοτ ρεαλλη ιησ πριορ-ιτη. Ρατηερ, ιτ σεεμσ τηατ ηε ανδ Τυρν-πικε χηαιρμαν Amorello, αλτηουγη ατ λογηρηεαδσ, βοτη σεεκ τηε λιμελιγητ ανδ ωιλλ δο ωηατεπερ το γετ αηεαδ ανδ λοοκ γοοδ. Κινδ οφ λικε Barry Locke, Χομμιονωεαλτη ΙΙ στωαν ιν φαμουσ βαγμαν.

3 The Democrats are Coming — It has been reported that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is to see **Rusty Tracks** at its convention at the Fleet Center. Entertainment mogul Don Law has stated that he will sign up this group or exotic dancer for the DNC Boston meeting once he figures out how to contact them/her.

4 New Commission to run Rose Kennedy Greenway — The latest proposal for a commission to operate and maintain the Greenway calls for a four-member—to ensure deadlock—Bored of Trustees. The Bored would consist of the Governor, the Mayor, Speaker of the House and the Senate President. Each trustee would have ten patronage appointments to a Board of Directors who in turn would appoint an Executive Director with unlimited staff to run the operation. The Executive Director would be required to be a former member of the state legislature who failed to get re-elected. Funding would come from fees (not taxes) levied on the businesses and residents abutting the Greenway.

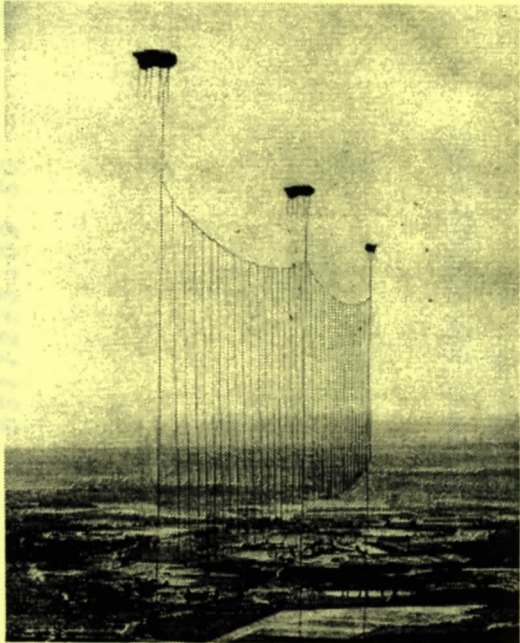
Eat those words — Subway Sandwiches has filed an injunction in Massachusetts Superior Court against the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to prevent the use of the word "subway" in association with transit.



Headlines You'll Never Read

- ✗ Mass. Horticultural Society bake sales finish successful Botanical Garden fundraising
- ✗ Steve Kaiser and Fred Salvucci to co-teach MIT course
- ✗ Turnpike chief Amorello agrees to pay cut and staff reductions
- ✗ Mass. Taxpayers Foundation declares MBTA Arborway project a 'best-buy'
- ✗ BRA admits Back Streets program too late to save industrial jobs
- ✗ WalkBoston publishes book of driving short-cuts in Boston
- ✗ Gov. Romney and Pres. Bush affirm support for MBTA Urban Ring project
- ✗ Dartmouth Street plaza construction project at Public Library wins award for efficiency

DNC to Move to So. Boston



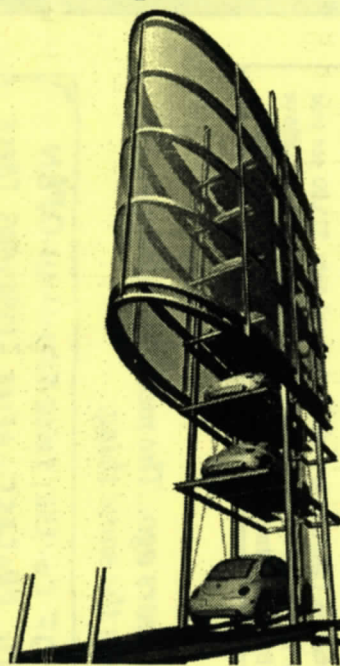
Goodyear Blimps will be used to provide an unknown level of security at the relocated Democratic National Convention.

In a surprise move, Mayor Menino has agreed to relocate the Democratic National Convention to the new So. Boston Convention Center. Previously insistent that North Station/Causeway Street offered delegates and media incomparable culture, fine dining, outstanding examples of urban transportation infrastructure, Hooters, shopping at Hilton's Tent City and memories of the Big, Bad Bruins, Menino apparently responded to requests from the White House and Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. With security paramount, the White House suggested the move to a location that could be defended using tried-and-sort-of-true Balloon Aprons used in wartime London.

With its home state of Ohio saddled with above-average unemployment, Goodyear Tire and Rubber approached Homeland Security Chief Ridge with the Balloon Apron security idea. Goodyear Blimps with vertical steel rods would float around the Convention Center to limit air access by helicopters, dirigibles and airplanes. Support for the venue change has come from barkeepers in South Boston and Steelworkers Local 7851.

The recent announcement that Logan Airport will be closed during the convention eliminated Federal Aviation Administration concerns about the blimps interfering with Logan flights.

Car Dispenser



Source: Moskow Architects, Inc.

Determined to be on the cutting edge of something, the Boston Transportation Department has decided to try out the award-winning car dispenser.

BTD first envisioned the car dispenser on the Commonwealth Mall with all of the oddball donated statues. But it then realized the Central Artery Greenway is now available to deposit odd acquisitions and will artistically locate six car dispensers along the length of the Greenway.

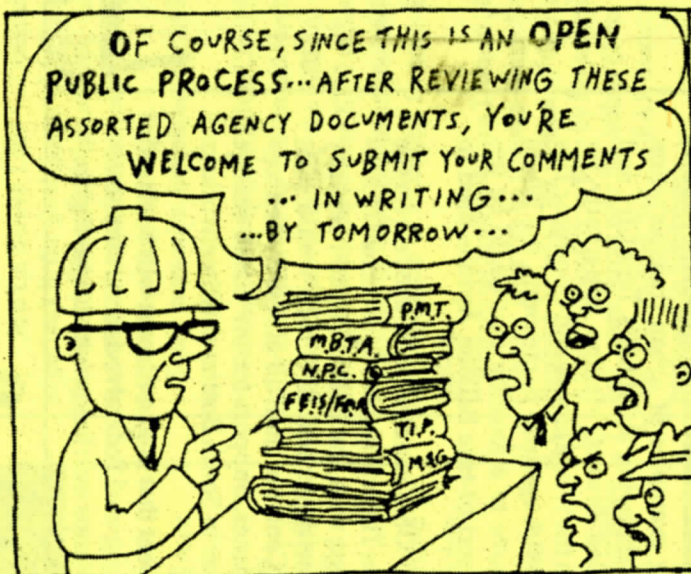
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the annual April Fool's issue of The Boston Informer, an otherwise "serious" newsletter covering development, construction and transportation downtown.

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Eleven years ago...The more that changes, the more it's the same thing.



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You Were Asking

Q. Last April, Gov. Romney was quoted as saying about the flyover road project at the Sagamore Bridge, "If I couldn't get that fixed, I'd have to resign in shame." Now that the legislature has put the project on hold for "further study," when can we expect Romney's resignation?

A. About the same time Whitey Bulger is apprehended.

Q. I heard the City of Boston got rid of its Bicycle Program Manager last year. Why?

A. The City realized it doesn't have a Bicycle Program and therefore doesn't need a Bicycle Program Manager.

Q. Since it's unlikely that anything will be built for at least five years on Greenway parcels designated for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Botanical Garden, what could the parcels be used for in the interim?

A. We propose they be made into fairgrounds with a Ferris Wheel, velodrome, outdoor dance pavilion, barbecue pits, carousel, circus, sideshows and competition hopscotch to bring life to the Greenway.

Q. Mayor Menino estimates that the four-day Democratic National Convention in July will bring in \$154 million in revenue to the City. Given that only 35,000 people (6,000 delegates, 29,000 families and media) are coming, that means that every man, woman and child will spend \$4,400. Do you believe this estimate?

A. Of course not.

Q. At latest report, the new So. Boston Convention Center had 42 definite bookings with 8 pending over the next six years, or about 10 conventions per year. What will happen the remainder of the time?

A. Nothing, at great expense to the taxpayers.



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